

**Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
February 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m.  
Juliani Room, Town Hall**

Jack Haley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Steve Simons, Caren Parker, Virginia Ferko (leaving at 7:40 and returning at 8:36 p.m.), Rick Hill (arriving 8:05 p.m.), Catherine Johnson, Jason Whittet, Maura Murphy, Laura Hockett, Richard Page, Polly Smith, Derek Redgate ( arriving at 8:42 p.m.) , David Murphy, and Barbara McMahon. Absent: Philip Licari.

**Citizen Speak.** No one spoke at Citizen Speak.

Mr. Haley announced that the Wellesley Cable Station was recording the meeting.

**Minutes.** Upon a motion made by Ms. Ferko and seconded by Ms. Hockett, members voted to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, January 22, January 26, February 9, and February 12. The vote was 11-0

**Sustainable Energy.** Guests Sustainable Energy Coordinator Molly Fairchild and Board Members Suzy Littlefield, Chris Ketchen, and Inspector of Buildings Officer Michael Grant described the Stretch Energy Code and its implications if adopted by the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) through Warrant Article 38. The Stretch Energy Code is designed to increase energy efficiency by 20-35% over the Base Energy Code now in effect. In response to Advisory questions, they said: the Stretch Energy Code will be subject to updates by the state; Town Meeting (TM) has the option to rescind the code at any time; adoption removes one barrier from the Town's eligibility for the Green Community designation; the Building Department will enforce the new code, just as it enforces the existing code; and the building department does not expect an increase in costs or workload resulting from adoption of the new code. There are increased costs, they noted, to the builder (both residential and commercial), although energy efficiencies realized should yield a payback over time.

**Presentation of By-law Changes for Article 39.** Selectman Terri Tsagaris discussed Article 39 under the Warrant, which asks TM to adopt a new Open Meeting By-law, which, she said, will closely mirror the State Open Meeting Law, which the Town is already following. Ms. Tsagaris also said that the Selectmen sent comments to the State's Attorney General's Office requesting that remote participation be a local option.

**ATM Articles Discussion/Votes.** Ms. Hockett moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 4 of the Warrant, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion of the article which was sponsored by Human Resources and involves job classifications by groups. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Ms Hockett moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motions expected under Articles 5 & 6 of the Warrant, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Actions on Articles 5 & 6 were deferred.

**Town-Wide Financial Plan (TWFP) Update.** Guest Executive Director of Government Hans Larsen and Board of Selectmen Chair Katherine Babson and Members Owen Dugan, Barbara Searle, Ellen Gibbs, and Terri Tsagaris described and showed slides of the latest iteration of the TWFP. The Advisory Committee discussed with the Selectmen deficits projected in FY12 – FY16. Selectmen described various approaches peer communities are employing to address deficits and labor costs and discussed with Advisory the need for departments and boards to work collaboratively, as well as to be transparent with budgeting assumptions. They discussed with Advisory strategies for developing budgets with STT&I, collective bargaining and other key variables still unknown. Advisory members spoke to the need to address the Town's costs structure and

reviewed a chart showing the increases in the median residential tax bills with projected deficits. Presentation of the TWFP in the Advisory Report was also discussed.

There was a break at 9:45 p.m. and the proceedings resumed at 9:50 p.m.

**Liaisons Reports.** Ms. McMahon reported that the School Committee presented new incremental costs for moving to the new high school and also noted that some monies returned to the Schools from adjusted billings from the MLP will be applied to installing energy conservations measures at the Middle School. The DPW was asked for more details on the Kingsbury Street project and the proposed RDF recycling materials structure. Mr. Haley distributed a document entitled “Town-Wide Debt Capital” which showed inside-the-levy debt and debt exclusions regarding proposed capital projects from FY12-22.

**Break.** Advisory adjourned for a break at 9:35 p.m. and Mr. Haley reconvened the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

**ATM Articles Discussion/Votes.** Mr. Hill moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 11 of the Warrant. Ms. Ferko seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of Article 11, which deals with the finances of the Municipal Light Board, the members approved the motion by a vote of 13-0.

Mr. Hill moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 12 of the Warrant. Ms. Ferko seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of Article 12, which involves the DPW’s Water Enterprise Fund, the members approved the motion by a vote of 13-0.

Mr. Hill moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 13 of the Warrant. Ms. Ferko seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of Article 13, which involves the DPW’s Sewer Enterprise Fund, the members approved the motion by a vote of 13-0.

Mr. Hill moved that the Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on the motion expected under Article 29 of the Warrant, and Ms. Ferko seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of Article 29, which is related to Water/Sewer Loan Authorizations, the motion was approved by a vote of 13-0.

Following the votes on Warrant articles, Advisory discussed preparing the write-up for Article 8 in view of missing information and outstanding questions on the School Budget and from bargaining units.

**Adjournment.** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Johnson. The vote to adjourn was 13-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10: 50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Davis  
Administrative Assistant

Documents Referenced or Distributed: Stretch Energy Code, Sustainable Energy Committee Presentation to the Advisory Committee, February 2, 2011; TWFP Outline for TM: Town-Wide Financial Plan Power Point Presentation; Town of Wellesley, Tax Rate History; Town-Wide Debt Capital; Warrant Article Draft Write-ups: Article 4,5,6,11,12,13, and 29.